ROSEBURG, OREGON.
SEP 7
130 PM.
19

Miss Blanche Toner

Yoncalla

Oregon

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SEP 7
130 PM.
19

Miss Blanche Toner

Yoncalla

Oregon

Blanche

972 N. Jackson St - Roseburg Oregon
September 5th 1928

Dear Blanche and all the rest -

Now since I have decided to write
What shall I say. Well since I have a
letter from Millie today. of 31 of Aug. Surly
say she is not very well, has severe cold.
At Ketchican at last date.

Sunday Lewie and I took a slab of bread
&c. went to Calapooia; (I have not spelled it
right) To join the Pioneers at the bridge
Church, and school house. We saw a few
people we once knew. Benton Myers, who
spoke, Arb Steans, Ira Cole, Ora & Sarah
Fryer, Dora Bunch. Mr Bartrum from the
hop field. Corbin Grubb. Creed Chinoweth
A short talk by Myers, Creed N Rice Sem
songs. Dixie, Black Joe, Irish Rose. At the
last some hymns. Had other music too
melons, &c. I saw Jess Woodsons wife & daugh-
ters the daughter played Parlor Organ, I looked
for some of yur folks but I no see any
that looked like yu. Well I was to tired
to go round much so I kept still.

Aunt Millie and Lewi took me to the circus while here, Thur and Sunday is all the times I have been anywhere since memorial day. So I was very tired when I got home.

So you will see I can not write much for a letter, As I see no one, and no one sees me.

Lewi is working for Mr Kolhagen at present. He was gone away all last week. He will be here to night. Worked half day labor day for Mr Welker. He gave Lewi a lamb. so now I have a baby lamb to care for so I'll have some company now.

Lillie has a baby deer and a sheep, an extra calf for her cow. They soon will have a stock farm in town. The air feels like rain this evening some will be glad if it should rain. It would clear the air of smoke. There are only an abundance of it here. Please excuse letter, Hope all are well. Just read an old letter from mother written 14th of last Sept. 1927. She buying books, getting children off to school so I'll have to keep on reading as I get no new ones.

With love to all. Write when you can

E, Smith

Letter Esther Wells Smith to granddaughter Blanch Toner
September 5th, 1928

982 N. Jackson St., Roseburg, Oregn
September 5th, 1928

Dear Blanche and all the rest—

Now since I have decided to write what shall I say. Well since I have a letter from Millie today, of 31 of Aug. I will say she is not very well, has severe cold. At Ketchican at last date.

Sunday Lewis and I took a slab of bread & went to Calapooia, (I have not spelled it right?) to join the Pioneers at the bridge church and school house. We saw a few people we once knew. Benton Myers, who spoke, Art Stearns, Ira Cole, Ora & Sarah Fryer, Ida Bunch, Mr. Bertram from the hop field, Corbin Grubbe, Creed Chenoweth. A short talk by Myers, bread & pie, then songs. Dixie, Black Joe, Irish Rose.. At the last some hymns. Had other music too.

Long tables, victuals aplenty, hot coffee, melons, &c. I saw Mrs. Woodson, wife & daughters. The daughter played organ, piano. I looked for some of you folks but I no see any that looked like you. Well I was too tired to go round much so I kept still.

Aunt Millie ⟨and Lewis⟩ took me to the circus while here. Then and Sunday is all the times I have been anywhere since Memorial Day. So I was very tired when I got home.

So you will see I can not write much for letters, as I see no one, and no one sees me.

Lewis is working for Mr. [McHagan?] at present. He was gone away all last week. He will be here tonight. Worked half day Labor Day for Mr. Welker. He gave Lewis a lamb, so now I have a baby lamb to care for, so I'll have some company now.

Lillie has a baby deer and a sheep, an extra calf for her cow. They soon will have a stock farm in town. The air feels like rain this evening. Some will be glad if it should rain. It would clear the air of smoke. There [crossed out: surely?] an abundance of it here.

Please excuse letter. Hope all are well. Just read an old letter from mother written 14th of last Sept. 1927. She buying books, getting children off to school, so I'll have to keep on reading as I get no new ones.

With love to all. Write when you can.

E. Smith

Esther Wells Smith to Blanche Toner
September 5th 1928

Reflections
Jeffrey Hunt
June 29 2026

This letter was written by Esther Wells Smith to her granddaughter Blanche Toner on September 5, 1928. Blanche was nineteen years old, while Esther was seventy-six. The letter has a quiet undertone of loneliness: Esther writes that she sees almost no one and spends time rereading old letters because she receives so few new ones.

One passage is difficult to interpret. Esther says she has just read "an old letter from mother" dated September 14, 1927. Her mother, Anna Elizabeth Mandler, had died in 1904, so either Esther misstated the date, was referring to a different "mother," or was confused while writing. The inconsistency should remain unresolved unless further family correspondence clarifies it.

Esther also reports that Millie was ill with a severe cold in Ketchikan, Alaska. Later she recalls that "Aunt Millie and Lewis" had taken her to the circus while Millie was visiting, which may refer to an earlier visit rather than a contradiction. Millie Christina Smith died in Alaska on January 12, 1929, only four months after this letter was written, making the brief mention of her illness especially poignant.